

Superfund Update

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Cornell-Dubilier Site (Hamilton Industrial Park)

South Plainfield, New Jersey

EPA
Region 2

March 1997

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this update to inform area residents and workers of the Hamilton Industrial Park of the status of activities at the Cornell-Dubilier Site in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Investigations conducted by EPA have revealed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals at the Cornell-Dubilier Site (also known as the Hamilton Industrial Park). The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (a federal health agency that evaluates risks to public health from environmental contaminants) has reviewed the available data and concluded that PCBs are present in surface soils at the Site at levels of concern for workers at the Hamilton Industrial Park and trespassers. For more information about the health effects from exposure to PCBs and ways you can reduce your exposure to PCBs from the Site, see the accompanying fact sheet titled **"Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Cornell-Dubilier: Facts for Workers and Area Residents"**.

What is the Cornell-Dubilier Site?

The Cornell-Dubilier Site is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The Site occupies approximately 25 acres and is bounded by Hamilton Boulevard to the northwest, Spicer Avenue to the southwest, a wetlands area to the southeast, and a tributary of the Bound Brook and Conrail tracks to the northeast.

Cornell-Dubilier operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components including capacitors. During that period of time, Cornell-Dubilier handled and may have disposed of or arranged for the disposal of PCBs at the Site.

The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by 15 businesses.

What are the results of EPA's investigation?

Sampling conducted by EPA has revealed the presence of a wide variety of contaminants including PCB's, lead and cadmium in soils at the Site and in the water and sediment of the tributary of the Bound Brook which borders the Site. Additional investigations are required to determine the extent of contamination in soils and in the tributary of the Bound Brook.

PCBs are the primary contaminant of concern at the Site due to the levels found in soils and the potential health effects from long-term exposure.

Air samples were collected by EPA on the perimeter of a fenced area that was used by a truck driving school. This area contains the highest levels of contaminants found at the Site. The day the samples were taken was dry and significant amounts of dust

were generated due to the activity of the truck driving school. No contaminants were found at levels of concern in the air samples collected. The truck driving school no longer operates at the Site, their temporary operating permit was revoked based on the recommendation of the South Plainfield Health Department.

What actions will be taken to address health concerns at the Site?

Under Superfund, EPA can respond to a release or the threat of a release of hazardous substances by conducting a removal action or requiring responsible parties to conduct a removal action. Removal actions are short term operations to reduce or eliminate the threats to public health or the environment associated with the release of hazardous substances. Responsible parties under Superfund include current and former owners or operators of the facility.

EPA has notified two parties of their potential liability for the Site and is preparing legal documents that would require these parties to take actions to limit workers and area residents exposure to contaminants from the Site. If the potentially responsible parties fail to take action in a timely fashion, EPA can take appropriate response actions.

Who do I contact for more information?

For information about the Site contact the South Plainfield Health Department at (908) 226-7634.

For information about the health effects from exposure to PCBs or other environmental contaminants contact the Agency for Toxic Substances Control and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (908) 906-6931.

For information about EPA's investigation and the response action required to address health concerns at the Site contact Eric Wilson at (908) 906-6991.